'Like Tower of Babel' When Hollanders Meet

"Here it's just like the Tower of Babel," smiled Mrs. Daniel Horn.

It was confusing, all right, in the Horns' spacious living room at 523 Harbinger, but only two languages were being spoken, English and a little bit of Dutch.

The confusing part was the number of children coming and going: six Horn boys and five DeGroot girls, the DeGroot girls newly arrived from the Netherlands with their mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. DeGroot.

And at that, three DeGroot boys were missing, out having their first lunch in Canada, in a restaurant, with a new friend.

The Horns arrived seven years ago from Baarn, Netherlands, with their boys. Their old friends, the DeGroots, followed them, and came for the same reason, Mr. DeGroot said: they wanted space for the big family.

Mr. and Mrs. DeGroot visited Victoria last September to make their plans, and as a result, have a home waiting for them in Metchosin, especially selected to be large enough for an energetic family of 10.

The DeGroot children don't speak English yet, but they are beginning to understand it, their father said, "and it won't take long."

"Children pick up English quite easily," Mr. DeGroot said. "The Horns' experience was that they took about three months."

LOCAL NEWS

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SECOND NEWS SECTION — VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1959 — PAGE TWENTY-THREE

CCFer Says $1,500,000 Too Much

Government House Too Expensive?

The provincial government has spent too much money building a new Government House, Cedric Cox (CCF, Burnaby) complained in the legislature yesterday.

"It is not necessary," he said. "The lieutenant-governor is doing a very good job running the province from his hotel suite. The money could have been better spent on building homes for the aged."

New Government House will cost more than $1,500,000.

Public Works Minister Chant yesterday told the legislature the new Government House will not be completed by the end of this month as planned because of construction difficulties.

He described it as "a fine structure . . . a credit to British Columbia and Canada."

He said if each person in British Columbia bought only two or three packets of cigarets it would amount to enough money to pay for Government House.

Yates to Become 'Great White Way'

The 700 block of Yates will be a "great white way" for Friday evening shopping this week.

Arrangements were completed yesterday between an electrical manufacturing company and the city for a demonstration of a new type of street night designed especially for shopping districts.

Secretive, Says Dowding

Chant Attitude 'Like C. D. Howe'

Attitude of Public Works Minister W. N. Chant was likened in the legislature yesterday to that of former federal trade minister C. D. Howe in the House of Commons.

"His attitude is that 'we will not give information to this House,'" Gordon Dowding (CCF, Burnaby) said during a debate in which opposition members endeavored unsuccessfully to get a commitment from Mr. Chant on Victoria's new courthouse, which the Throne Speech promised would be started this year.

"I can't find in the estimates where the funds are coming from," said George Gregory (Lib., Victoria).

"The funds will come from the usual sources. Progress of the courthouse is coming along very well indeed," Mr. Chant smiled.

"At what stage are the plans?" asked Mr. Gregory.

"I have told the member what we are going to do," Mr. Chant replied.

"This is the year a promise has been made. Where do you get the money if nothing is appropriated?" Mr. Gregory persisted.

"You don't need to worry," Mr. Chant replied.

"This is the worst. You would think the minister was running a little private business. He has no right to withhold information from the general public," John Squire (CCF, Alberni) complained.

"His refusal to give honest information is disgraceful. We are getting tired and worried about this kind of situation," he charged.

"I have answered," Mr. Chant maintained.

"This is not good. The minister saying things are in hand on something brought up in the Throne Speech is not good enough. There must be something definite," said Leo Nimsick (CCF, Cranbrook).

"We are proceeding with plans," Mr. Chant replied.

"I don't think it fair," Mr. Nimsick replied.

"You can't always give definite plans. The plans are well in hand . . . the plans are proceeding . . . the courthouse will start this year," Mr. Chant replied.

Mr. Gregory tried another tack to get information.

"When does the attorney-general plan to move the RCMP from the site of the new courthouse," Mr. Gregory asked Attorney-General Bonner.

"Oh . . . in due course," Mr. Bonner smiled.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan entered the battle for information.

"Are the preliminary plans for the courthouse completed?" he asked.

"I gave the answer," Mr. Chant smiled.

"Are they completed?" Mr. Strachan asked.

"They are in preparation," Mr. Chant replied.

"You have a long way to go if you are to start this year . . . you are going to have a job to spend any money this year," Mr. Strachan said.

Donald Smith (SC, Victoria) jumped to the aid of Mr. Chant.

"It seems to me the opposition members are trying to pick a fight rather than get information," he said. "They have been told it would be started, now they want to know where the money is coming from."

He suggested the money would come from the $25,000,000 the government says it will save in debt servicing charges when the net debt is paid off this year.

"We will build lots of buildings then," he said.

The Daily Colonist has said on several occasions that the courthouse is expected to be started about next October and will be treated as a winter work project.

Around the Island

85,400 Islanders Served By Regional Libraries

COURTENAY — Vancouver Island Regional Library, serving an area extending from Bamberton on Saanich Inlet and the Cowichan Lake area in the south, to Campbell River and the Albernis in the north and west served a total population of 85,400 in the past year.

Annual report for the year ended December 1958 also showed the book circulation was 519,849, an increase of 55,172 over 1957.

Serving the cities with a combined population of over 33,000, the Regional Library now has seven librarians, 22 branch custodians, one secretary-bookkeeper, one bookmobile driver, seven clerical assistants and typists and 20 branch assistants employed full time

Library agencies include 22 branches and deposit stations, 192 bookmobile stops and 68 school libraries, with a student enrolment in classrooms numbering nearly 7,000.

Founded in April, 1936, the regional library now has a book stock of almost 84,000. The circulation of 16-mm. sound films had a viewing audience of 4,400 for November and December for 71 films.

The Bookmobile service showed increases in their volume of business with a new route in Nanaimo School District south, new service to Alberni School District 70, new stops at Errington, Royston and Bamberton, the most southerly point in the region.

Ladysmith school district added another busy route.

In branch accommodation, the report stated, the new Port Alberni City Hall library will be ready for occupancy early this year.

Branch quarters in Lake Cowichan were taken over in November in the new Lake Cowichan administration building. In Nanaimo, a special library committee of the Kiwanis Club, in conjunction with the Nanaimo and District Credit Union and the Regional Library Board obtained approval of the Nanaimo city council of plans for a new branch library.

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NANAIMO—Annual student recital sponsored by the Nanaimo Women's Musical Club, will be held in the Nanaimo senior high school auditorium commencing at 7.30 p.m. tomorrow.

At least 90 pupils of various Nanaimo musical, dance and elocution teachers will participate in this annual concert which furnishes the funds for the two bursaries awarded at the Upper Island Music Festival next month.

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PORT ALBERNI—The Kinsmen Club of Port Alberni has given assurance that there will be a Sproat Lake regatta this year.

At a meeting in the Somass Hotel, members voted unanimously to sponsor the annual water event.

PENDER ISLAND — A new Chamber of Commerce has been founded for Pender Island.

An enthusiastic audience of 70, meeting in the Hope Bay Hall, endorsed a resolution that the chamber be formed to work for the advancement and prosperity of the island.

Capt. C. Claxton acted as chairman, and Mrs. W. L. Shirley as secretary.

Guest speaker was M. R. Eaton, president of the Sidney and North Saanich Chamber of Commerce.

Sixty-two islanders joined from the audience, and four in absentia, making a total of sixty-six charter members.

Elected president was L. J. Armstrong.

Mrs. H. G. Scott was elected vice-president; Mrs. W. L. Shirley, secretary; Capt. Roy Beech, treasurer.

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PORT ALBERNI — A new appointment by councils of the Twin Cities to Port Alberni Harbor Commission is now in order in the opinion of E. A. Dinsmore, Port Alberni's city solicitor.

A controversy arose some weeks ago over whether or not the commission is required to notify council at the completion of the term of the city's representative on the board.

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LADYSMITH — Mrs. Ethel Mary Kent, 75, pioneer resident of Ladysmith for the past 57 years, died suddenly at the home of her sister Miss S. L. Kent, Monday evening.

Born at Austin, Nevada, she came to Nanaimo with her parents in 1888. They moved to Old Wellington and conducted a meat market business there until they moved to Extension in 1900 and to Ladysmith in 1902.

Funeral service will be held from St. John's Anglican Church at Ladysmith at 2 p.m. today. Cremation will follow at Royal Oak, Victoria.

Surviving are one son, Earl Parker Kent and one sister, Miss Sarah Lillian Roberts, both of Ladysmith.

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NANAIMO—Post-of-the-year awards will be made to ground observer units in Nanaimo, Parksville and Tahsis by the RCAF. These were considered to have the best records of over 100 Island units during 1958.

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PORT ALBERNI — Dividends on shares were set at 4 per cent by the membership of Alberni District Credit Union at the annual meeting here.

A 7 per cent patronage refund was also declared.

The membership accepted a recommendation from the board of directors which will result in the opening of a branch office in Alberni. Office space has been arranged in the north end of Alberni District Co-op building on Johnston Street.

ALBERNI—The colorful installation rites of the Order of De Molay were held in St. Andrew's Church hall Saturday evening when William Smith took office as master councillor of Klitsa Chapter.

Other elected officers installed were Barry Thomson, senior councillor; Robert Beardmore, junior councillor; and Hart Kendrick, treasurer. Miss Catherine Craig was crowned chapter sweetheart by the newly-installed master councillor.

Past master councillor, chevalier, Victoria chapter, Len Maycock led the team of installing officers.

Appointed officers for the term are: Bryan Greenwood, assistant scribe; Page Wheatley, marshal; Richard Garner, chaplain; Gerald Salmon and Robert Porter, deacons; Wayne Robinson, stewards; Barry Grant, sentinel; Stanley Taylor, standard bearer; Brian Jones, orator; Malcolm Berry, almoner; Ken McRae, Charles Tall, Alan McLean, Ray Hughes, Donald Little, Robert Stickely and Reg Carter, preceptors.

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TOFINO — Study is being carried out here on a future water supply for the village and area in an effort to overcome water shortage such as caused hardship in the district last year.

Hoped for is a system utilizing Meare's Island water to ensure a steady supply of pure water even when considerable growth in population takes place in the area.

Residents in the village but outside the present system will also be asked if they would be willing to form part of a new water district and share cost of the program. Many of them were without water last summer.

William Sharp, chairman of the village commission, told a meeting of commissioners attended by a number of ratepayers that something must be done to ensure a water supply "before the dry weather sets in."

* * *

PORT ALBERNI — Funeral services were held yesterday at 2 p.m. in the United Church here for Leslie Cureton Horner, who died suddenly Sunday evening at his home, 316 Sixth Avenue North.

Mr. Horner, who was born in Vancouver in 1911, had been employed in the sales department of Alberni Plywoods for the past six years. He helped in organizing the Air Force Cadets here and had been active as an instructor of the corps.

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NANAIMO—"Today's Drugs—Their Use and Abuse," will be the subject of a "Capsule College" sponsored by the B.C. Pharmaceutical Association here March 22, in the Elk Hall, starting at 2.30 p.m.

Included in the drugs to be discussed are tranquilizers, antibiotics and barbiturates.

More Nitro Taken By Experts

Members of the demolition squad at HMCS Naden had another delicate job yesterday—disposition of the second lot of dangerous nitroglycerine found in this area in a week.

Yesterday afternoon, Dave Kibsgaard, 706 Blanshard, came to city police headquarters to report a parcel he had found "in the harbor district." He had taken his find home, then decided to turn it over to police.

His discovery proved to be a small screw-cap jar of nitroglycerine, electric percussion caps with wire attached, and an eye dropper.

The entire parcel was taken over by detectives, and held until picked up for disposal by the navy's demolition experts.

Last Thursday, a larger quantity of explosives, including nitroglycerine, were found in the woodshed of an Esquimalt home and disposed of by police and navy explosives experts.

Appeal Out To Churches For Slayer

An appeal has gone out to all Greater Victoria churches to help save 19-year-old Robert Chapman from the gallows.

Chapman was sentenced to hang next month for the shotgun slaying of his brother John, 23, on the family farm at Rosedale on Oct. 16.

Some 200 signatures have already been obtained here to petitions asking Justice Minister Davie Fulton to commute his sentence.

The appeal is being organized locally by the condemned man's elder brother, Pte. Leslie Chapman, 29, of 2674 Millstream Road.

Altogether, in B.C. some 30,000 signatures are expected within the next week.

Pegasus Brings New Blood to Island

Two-year-old Shetland stallion, Pegasus, is part of breed improvement program of newly-formed Vancouver Island Pony Breeders' Association. Dappled pony, held by Sara Mattick, 13, Cordova Bay, daughter of the owner, is by U.S. grand champion sire, Sir Lancelot.—(Colonist photo)

Gregory 'All Wrong'

Claim of George Gregory, Victoria MLA, that a civil defence warning couldn't be given outside of office hours is a "complete and utter misstatement of facts," the Greater Victoria target area's civil defence director said yesterday.

Director V. S. Godfrey said a warning system was ready "night and day" and that in event of emergency, every centre in Canada would receive warning right away.

Mr. Gregory made the claim in the legislature Tuesday night.

Rocky Point Mishap

Powerful Shock Jolts Workman

A 58-year-old HMCS Dockyard laborer working at Rocky Point armament depot narrowly missed death yesterday when a cable he was holding hit a high voltage power line.

In Royal Jubilee Hospital suffering from shock is Walter Green, 2731 Winster, Langford, a former machine shop fitters' helper who was transferred to the depot three months ago.

"We would both be dead now if it had really hit," said Floyd Adams, 35, of 2809 Adelaide, a crane operator working with Mr. Green.

"The line whipped over and snapped against the line," he said.

Mr. Adams said they were clearing rocks from a road between the married quarters and the arsenal.

"I lifted the crane's boom and Mr. Green was pulling out slack to wind it around a rock, when it hit the rock," he explained.

The boom was above the 35-foot pole, with the line dangling from it to Mr. Green.

"The cable hit the line and threw him 15 feet or more, but he only suffered shock," Mr. Adams said.

They were with a signal man and truck driver at the time.

Legislature Issue

Auditorium Site? —City or Saanich

Whether Victoria's civic auditorium should be in Victoria or in Saanich became an issue on the floor of the legislature yesterday.

John Tisdalle (SC, Saanich) said it should be in Saanich because that is becoming the centre of population and there is more space for parking.

J. Donald Smith (SC, Victoria) argued that the municipality which puts up the most money should have the auditorium.

The discussion came up during consideration of estimates of the public works department.

Earlier in the session Premier Bennett pledged to pay one-third the cost of a civic auditorium if the federal government and the city of Victoria each paid one-third of the cost.

Park Daffs Near Peak

Daffodils along Dallas in Beacon Hill Park are almost at their peak and will continue to make a fine display through the Easter weekend, parks administrator W. H. Warren said yesterday.

But he told city council parks committee that "we are getting more than our normal share of thoughtless action, kids, I suppose, knocking the tops off the flowers and picking them off short and throwing them away."